THE LISTED PARENTS OF THE "E" BOYS BASKETBALL GAMES AT BANCROFT MIDDLE SCHOOL PETITION TO IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT THE USE OF 9 FOOT GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2006 SEASON.

To learn the fundamentals of basketball a child requires height appropriate goals. "E" Boys playing basketball on 10 foot goals only fosters and ingrains negative fundamental physical habits and could possibly cause injury due to excessive strain on developing muscles.

The inappropriate equipment blocks the ability to play basketball as it was designed to be played for both physical skill development and enjoyment of the game.

This is the first year the Parks and Rec league has experimented with full sized goals in age group of children. Long Beach bought new adjustable basketball goals last year at a cost of \$1,000 each. They are available for use but are in storage.

Nationally Recognized Youth Basketball Guidelines call for baskets heights of 8 1/2' high baskets for 7& 8, 9" baskets for 9 and 10 year olds; 91/2' for 11 and 12 year olds.

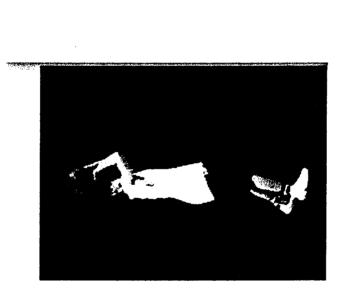
PROPER SHOOTING TECHNIQUE FOR A FREE-THROW IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR 9 AND 10 YEAR OLDS ON 10 FOOT GOALS.

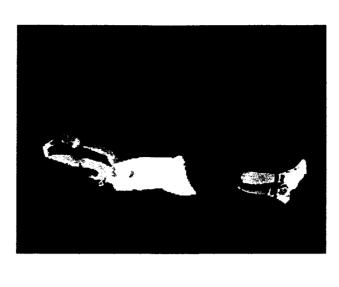
Proper Shooting - The player holds the ball to rest in the dominant hand's fingertips (the shooting arm) slightly above the head, with the other hand on the side of the ball. Generally, the non-shooting arm is only used to guide the shot, not to power it.

The set shot is taken from a standing position, with neither foot leaving the floor, typically used for free throws.

Have you seen your son shoot in proper form during a game – without needing both arms to power and not needing to jump for power?







PROPER SHOOTING TECHNIQUE FOR A FREE-THROW IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR 9 AND 10 YEAR OLDS ON 10 FOOT GOALS.

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"Bringing Basketball to the Kids"

The primary purpose of Biddy Basketball is to make the youngsters feel that they belong in the sports world. This has been done by changing the size of the ball to 27+ and 28+ inches instead of 30 inches in circumference, lowering the height of the basket from 10 feet to 8 1/2 feet or 9 feet for 12's, shortening the foul line from 15 feet to 12'10" and adding special rules such as each player must play at least six minutes of the game.

The importance of the Biddy program has been recognized by the United States Department Educational Exchange Program, having sponsored Biddy Clinics throughout South America, the Far East and Southeast Asia. Among the nations playing Biddy are Italy, Chile, Spain, El Salvador, Bermuda, Australia, England, Morocco, Formosa, Japan, Puerto Rico, Canada, Ecuador, Burma, Peru, Virgin Islands, Thailand, Malaya and Philippines

NAYSI News FYI: North American Youth Sport Institute

Ask Jack: What is the height difference between a NBA hoop and a junior high school hoop? S.H. on 5/31/2003

Jack sez: The regulation basketball goal is 10 feet high for all levels of league play from middle school through the professional level. For elementary grade students, move the goal up and down to any height so that the youngsters can make shots without having to resort to all kinds of strange mechanics to get the ball up to the goal. Then, gradually raise the goal as they become more skillful.

Here is a good rule of thumb for young players, based on the 10 foot goal. Position the goal, down or up, to a height where some of the players can jump up and just touch the net.



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PETITION IN FAVOR OF 9 FOOT GOALS FOR "E" BOYS BASKETBALL LEAGUE 2006

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March 4, 2006

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2005 Youth Sports National Report card



CTSA

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS ALLIANCE

For the first time ever, CTSA convened a panel of youth sports experts from across the country to evaluate youth sports in the United States and articulate its successes and failures. The panel evaluated only community-based youth sports programs, focusing on those that serve children ages 6 to 14. To do so, panel members relied on their own experiences as youth sports leaders, authors, sociologists, sports psychologists, coaches and parents, as well as on current research and academic literature.

For more details on these grades, please turn the page.

The Citizenship
Through Sports
Alliance (CTSA) is
an alliance committed
to promoting positive
behavior in youth
sports by harnessing the
collective resources of
major U.S. sports
organizations to
provide practical and
proven tools for
parents and coaches in
youth sports. Members
of the CTSA are:











AREA of REVIEW	GRADE
Child-Centered Philosophy	D
Coaching	C-
Health and Safety	C+
Officiating	B -
Parental Behavior/Involvement	D

Grading key for each topic:
A=Outstanding; B=Good; C=Fair; D=Poor; F=Failing

WWW.sportsmanship.org

810 Baltimore • Kansas City, MO 64105 913-791-9564



2005 youth sports National Report card

OVERVIEW

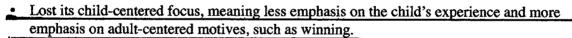
The expert panel that issued these grades was composed of men and women from all over the country whose diverse experiences with youth sports brought a unique perspective. These panelists included authors, attorneys, researchers, youth sports organization leaders, youth coaches and parents. Their common goal was to articulate where youth sports is succeeding and where it is failing. It is the hope of the CTSA that this will become an ongoing evaluation.

The panel recognized that youth sports is a wonderful activity for the children of this country, and that it provides both physical fitness and a means to enhance the character development of young people. The panel also recognized that in most communities youth sports is shepherded by men and women who are sincerely concerned for the well-being and development of youth. The panel does not wish to minimize the significant contributions of the people and programs who are working to provide such positive experiences.

The panel also recognized, however, that there are many areas where youth sports is falling short of its goals.

The panel is greatly concerned that, on the whole, youth sports has:







- Suffered from the actions of over-invested sports parents, who maintain unrealistic
 expectations and fail to behave in a way that promotes the development of their own child
 and others.
- Failed to provide sufficient background checks, training and evaluations for coaches, who are so instrumental in the youth sports experience.
- Focused on early sports specialization, leading to burnout, overuse injuries and a hyper-competitive atmosphere focused on travel team participation at an ever-younger age.



• Lost the voice of the child, who is participating in sports for his or her own goals, which experts say include fun, friends, fitness and skill development.

The panel hopes that by increasing awareness of these challenges, it can stimulate dialogue about ways to improve youth sports, enabling more young people to benefit from all that youth sports has to offer.



2005 youth sports National Report card Areas of Review

Grading key for each topic: A=Outstanding; B=Good; C=Fair; D=Poor; F=Failing Grading scale for elements within each topic: E=Excellent; S=Satisfactory; N=Needs Improvement; U=Unacceptable

CHILD-CENTERED PHILOSOPHY

Overall Grade (A-F): D

Unacceptable

	f															
	c۷															

Each player gets adequate attention and sufficient playing time in games and practices to improve skills and promote physical fitness.

Needs Improvement

 League leaders and coaches reject a "win-at-all-cost" mentality and instead focus on broader issues, such as life lessons and overall character development.

4. League leaders, parents and coaches understand the dangers of early sports specialization.

Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement

3. Youth sports leaders set expectations and hold patents, coaches and themselves accountable for sportsmanship, civility and commitment to a child-centered philosophy.

Unacceptable

COACHING

Overall Grade (A-F): C-

1. An adequate pool of coaches possesses training in coaching techniques and safety, ensuring a safe environment for practices and games.

2. Coaches focus on effort, skill development, positive reinforcement and fun.

- Coaches cultivate an environment of respect for officials and opponents, modeling sportsmanship and civility.
- 4. Coaches ensure that all players receive enough playing time to promote continued participation and physical fitness.
- 5. Coaches refrain from encouraging early sports specialization and don't penalize youth who participate in multiple sports or activities.

Needs Improvement

Unacceptable

Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement

HEALTH and SAFETY

Overall Grade (A-F): C+

1.	League leaders, coaches and officials provide a safe and secure environment for games and practices.	Satisfactory
2.	League leaders and coaches promote healthy habits — including fitness and good nutrition — and they discourage the use of performance-enhancing supplements, alcohol and drugs.	Needs Improvement
3.	The league conducts formal background checks on coaches and volunteers.	Needs Improvement
4.	League leaders and coaches emphasize the health and safety of the participants, and they possess adequate training in first-aid procedures and team safety, including hydration.	Needs Improvement
5.	League leaders and coaches establish a reasonable number of games and practices for each age group to promote participation and prevent burnout or overuse injuries.	Satisfactory

OFFICIATING

Overall Grade (A-F): **B**-

1.	Officials possess adequate training in officiating techniques, game rules and safety.	Needs Improvement
2.	Officials do their part to promote a child-centered philosophy, focusing on effort, skill development, positive reinforcement and fun.	Satisfactory
3.	Officials model sportsmanship and civility, encouraging an environment of respect for all.	Satisfactory
4.	Officials ensure that games are played by the rules, with special emphasis on fairness and safety.	Satisfactory
5.	An adequate pool of trained officials is available for games and tournaments.	Needs Improvement

PARENTAL BEHAVIOR/INVOLVEMENT Overall Grade (A-F):

1.	Parents behave appropriately at games and show respect for officials, coaches and participants	Unacceptable
2.	Parental behavior before, during and after games reflects an understanding of their role as parents and positive supporters – not as unofficial coaches.	Unacceptable
3.	Parental expectations are realistic, and parents focus on their child's total development, rather than focusing primarily on their child's potential to carn a sports scholarship or play professionally.	Needs Improvement
4.	Parents understand and support children's motivations to play sports – fun, friends, fitness, participation and skill development.	Needs Improvement
5.	Parents are willing to volunteer, and they do so without expectations of special privileges for their own children.	Needs Improvement

Titizenship Through Sports Alliance: Focusing on Youth Sports

2005 Youth Sports National Report Card - Fanel of Experts

The Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA) developed the **2005 Report Card on Youth Sport in America**. The report card identifies simple measures essential to a positive, child-centered youth sports experience and assigns "grades" in each category for our nation's youth-sports programs.

A national panel of youth-sports experts determined the "grades" and accompanying commentary. The panel includes individuals with expertise in research, sports psychology and sociology, marketing and communications, plus national content providers and representatives of youth-sport coaches, officials and youth-serving organizations with national reach.

Members of the panel:

Douglas Abrams, professor, School of Law, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO **David Bennett**, parent/coach/recreation director, Charleston, SC

Tonya Booker, recreation sports director, San Carlos, CA

Bruce Brown, NAIA Champions of Character special presenter, Camano Island, WA Chris Carr, Ph.D., sports psychologist, Methodist Sports Medicine Center, Indianapolis, IN Jay Coakley, Ph.D., sports sociologist, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO Douglas Coatsworth, Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies, Penn State University, University Park, PA

John Fraim, parent/coach, Columbus, OH

Kate Gordon, vice president sports and entertainment, Edelman, New York, NY **Dan Gould**, Ph.D., director, Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Steve Kallas, parent/coach/league board member/attorney, Westchester, NY Lisa Licata, vice president – community relations, National Alliance for Youth Sports, West Palm Beach, FL

Barry Mano, executive director, National Association of Sports Officials, Racine, WI **Jo Ann Rust**, National Junior College Athletic Association vice president, CTSA board, Tucson, AZ

Todd Petr, managing director of research, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Indianapolis, IN

Rose Snyder, Rose Snyder Consulting, Colorado Springs, CO

Kathy Spangler, director of national partnerships, National Recreation and Park Association, Ashburn, VA

Jim Thompson, executive director, Positive Coaching Alliance, Stanford, CA Rick Wolff, founder, Center for Sports Parenting, New York, NY

Judith Young, Ph.D., vice president for programs, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, CTSA board, Reston, VA



